# Brain Injury Awareness Month VSO/MSO Roundtable

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# Disclaimer

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy of the Department of the Army, Department of Defense, or U.S. Government.

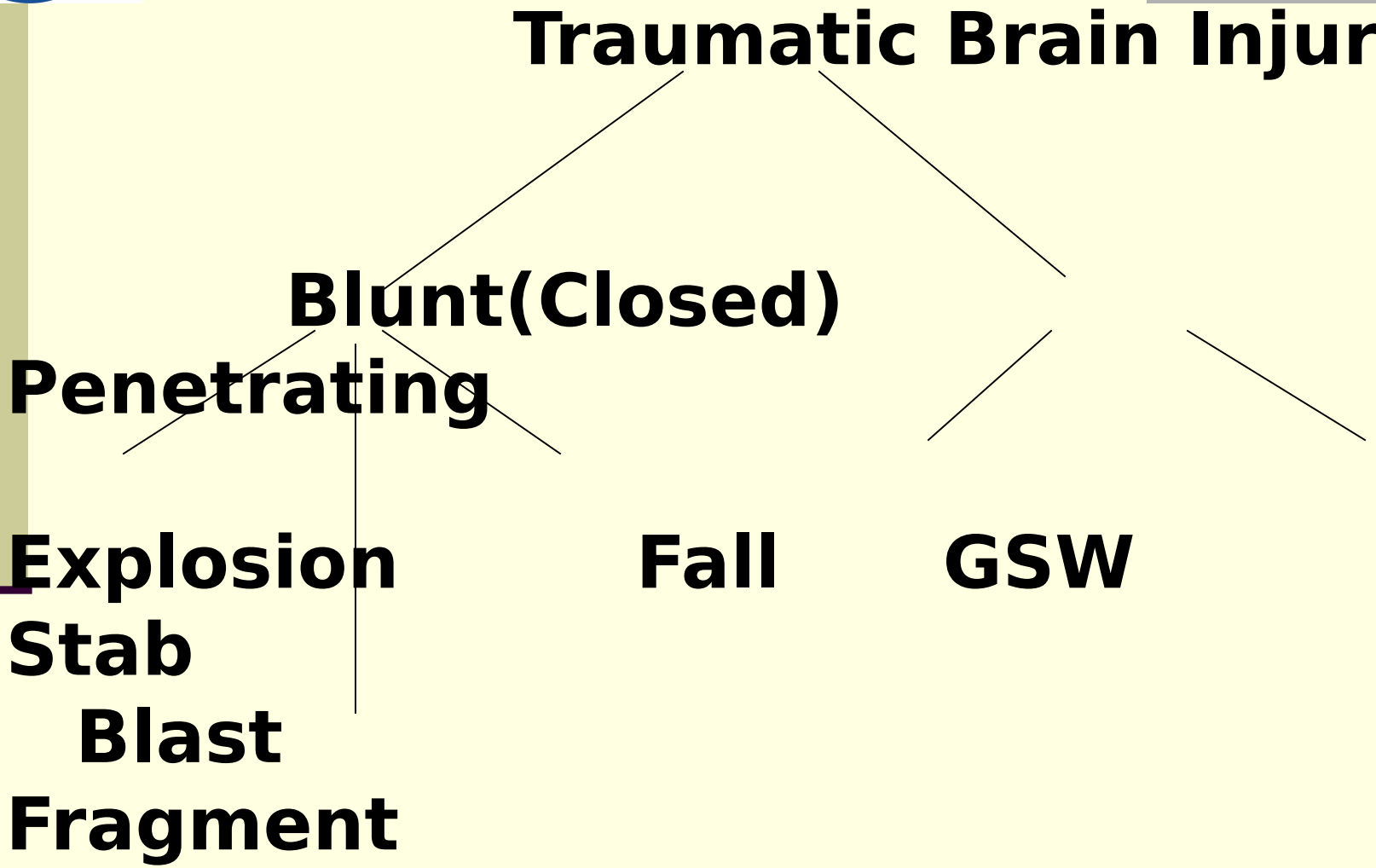
# AGENDA

- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) – Overview
- Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center
  - Service Member/ Veteran and Family Education
  - Brainline
  - TBI Family Caregiver Curriculum

# What is TBI?

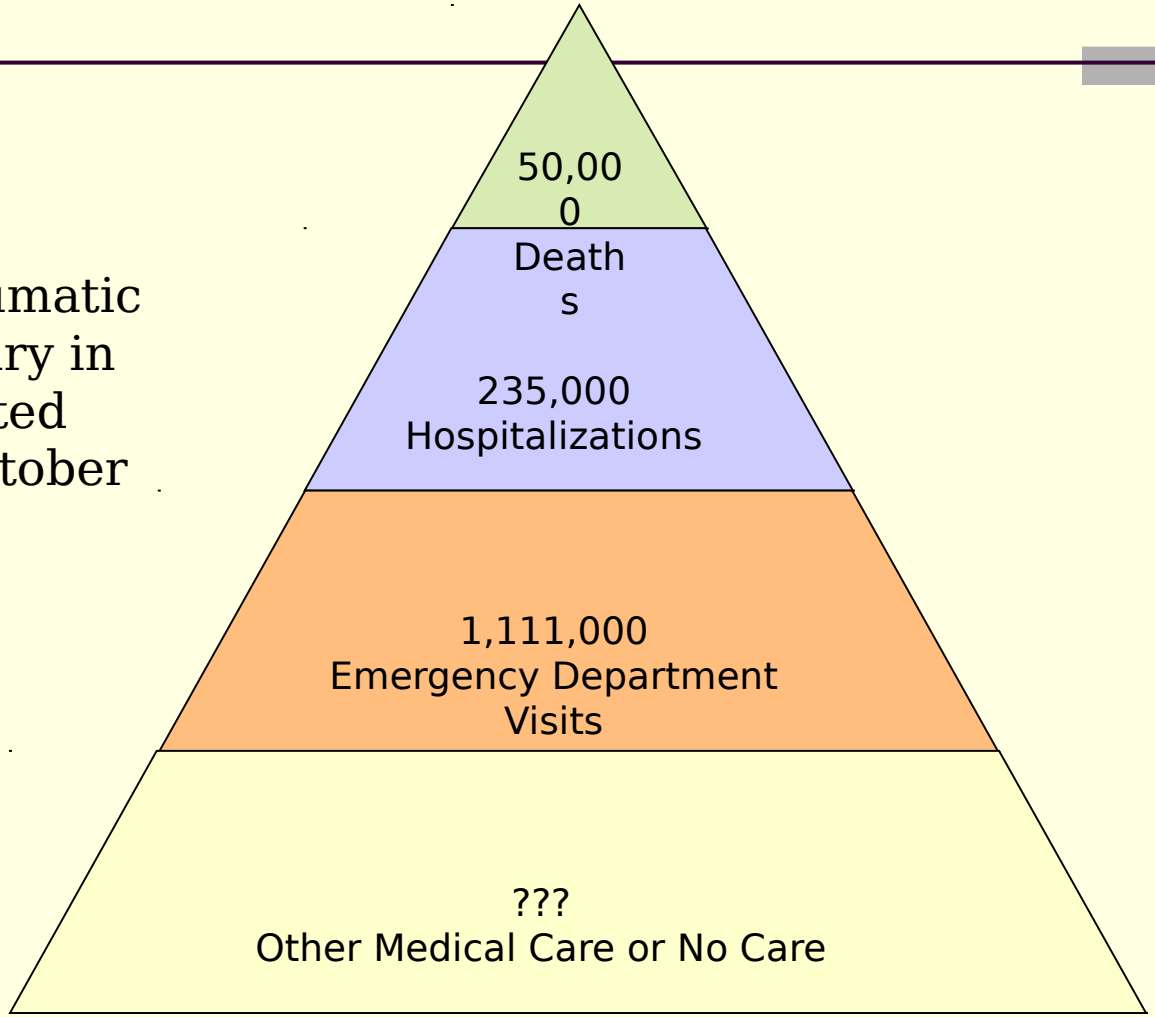
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is a disruption of function in the brain resulting from a blow or jolt to the head or penetrating head injury
- Not all blows to the head result in TBI

# Mechanisms of Injury



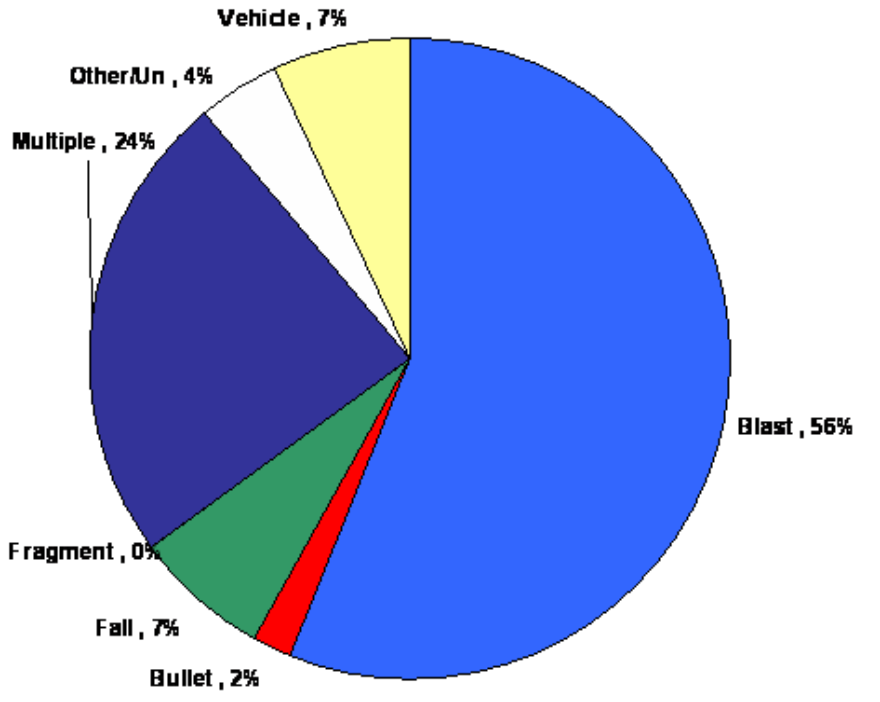
# Closed Head Injury

CDC: Traumatic Brain Injury in the United States, October 2004

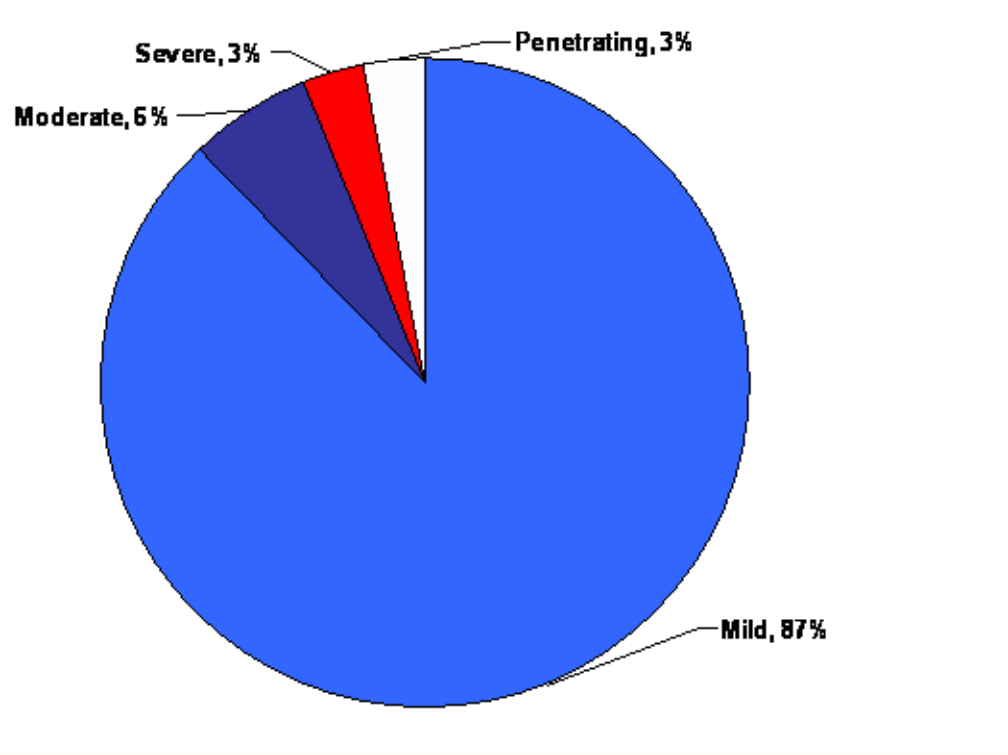



Annual Incidence in Civilian Population

# Agent of Injury




# Severity of




Source: Defense Veterans Brain Injury Center as of April 30, 2008

# Severity Rating for TBI

| Severity | GCS | AOC | LOC | PTA |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Mild** | 13-15 | ≤24 hrs | 0-30 min | ≤24 hrs |
| **Moderate** | 9-12 | >24 hrs | >30min<br><24 hrs | >24hrs<br><7 days |
| **Severe** | 3-8 | >24hrs | ≥24 hrs | ≥7 days |

GCS- Glasgow Coma Score

AOC- Alteration in consciousness

LOC -Loss of consciousness

PTA- Post-traumatic amnesia

# Continuous En Route Care

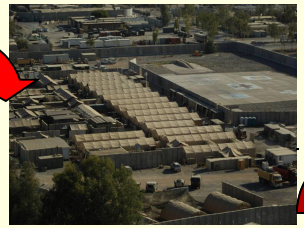
***Current Route from Injury to Definitive Care***

**BAS**
**Level 1**

**CASEVAC**
**38 Minutes**

**Forward**
**Surgical teams**
**Level 2**

**TACTICAL**
**EVAC**
**1 Hour**



**Combat Support**
**Hospital, EMEDS,**
**Fleet Hospital**
**Level 3**

**STRATEGIC EVAC**
**24-72 Hours**

**Definitive Care**
**Level 4**

**Surgical Capability**

# Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) (originally the Defense and Veterans Head Injury Program, DVHIP)

- The DVHIP was established in Feb 1992 and represented a unique collaboration among the DoD, VA, and the Brain Injury Association (BIA).

Congressionally directed program
- Clinical Care
- Clinical Research
- Education

Per Health Affairs/OSD
Surveillance / Force Management

For the Active Duty Service member,
Military Beneficiary and Veteran

# DVBIC NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

## MILITARY SITES

### MILITARY ASSOCIATE SITES

- Ft. Carson
- Landstuhl Regional Medical Center
- Ft. Bragg
- Camp Pendleton

### MILITARY LEAD SITES

- Walter Reed Army Medical Center
- Wilford Hall Medical Center/ Brooke Army Medical Center
- Naval Medical Center San Diego

### MEDSCEN Sites

- Camp Lejeune
- Ft. Hood

## VA SITES

- Richmond VAMC
- Tampa VAMC
- Palo Alto VAMC
- Minneapolis VAMC

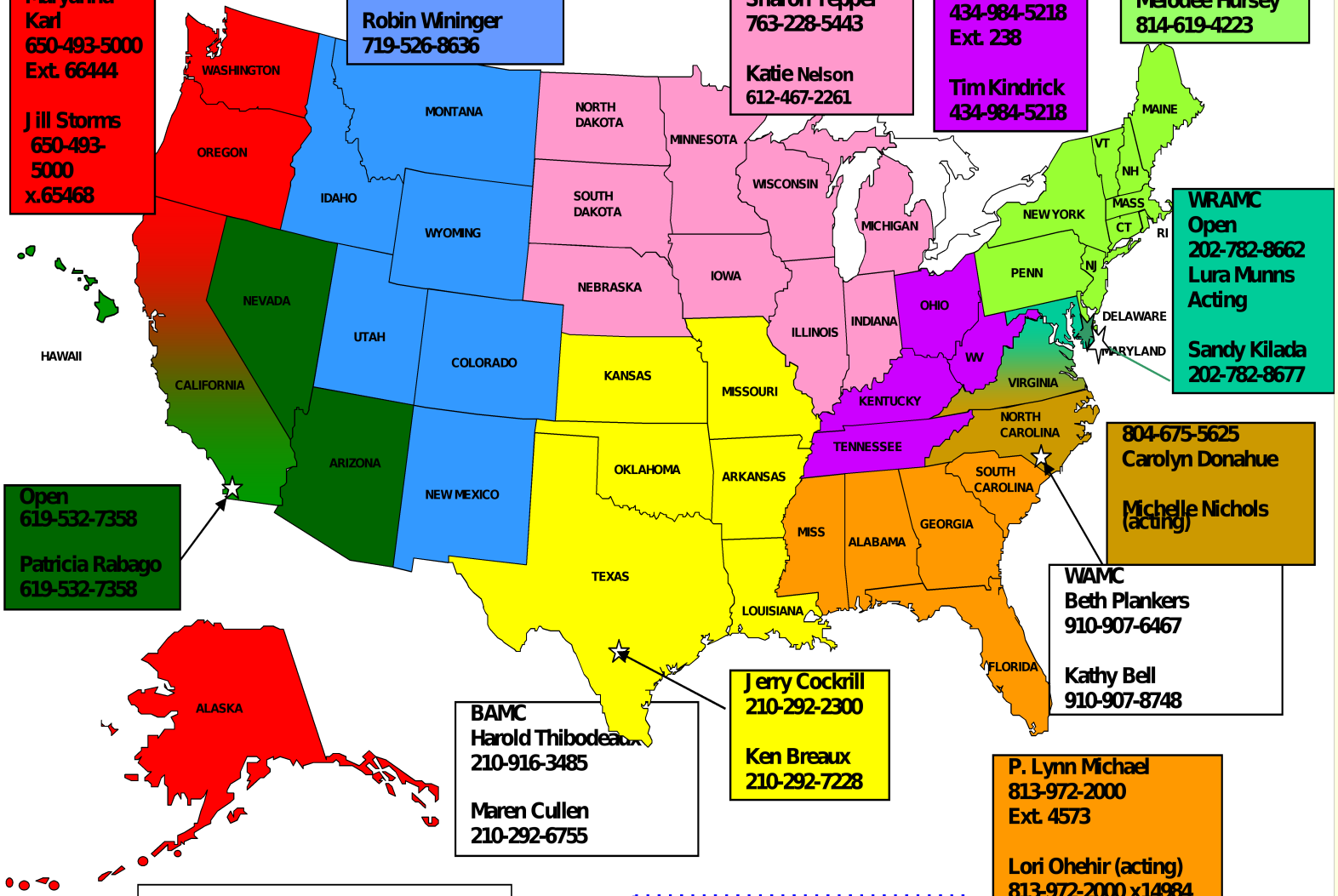
## CIVILIAN PARTNERS

- Lakeview Virginia Neurocare
- Laurel Highlands Neuro-Rehabilitation Center

# Priority Populations for TBI Education

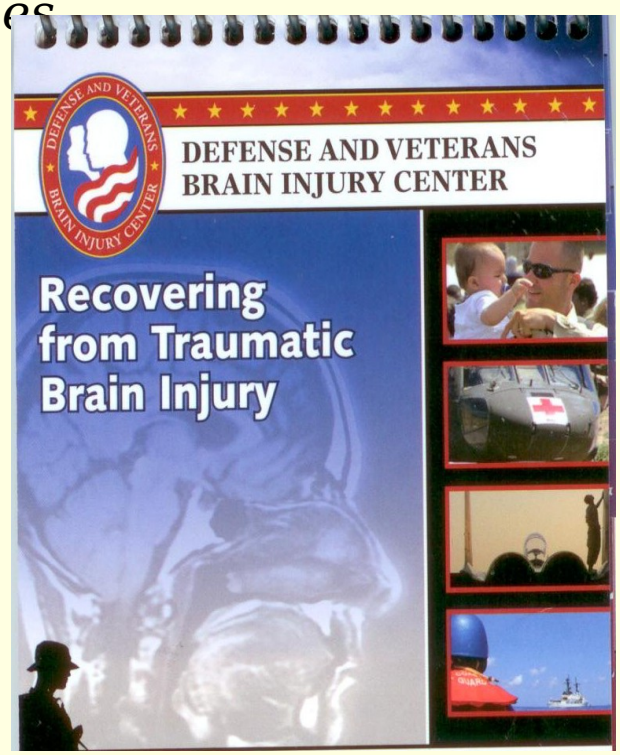
- Military and Veterans Health Care Providers
- Active Duty Service Members, Veterans, Guard & Reserve
- Family Members
- Community

# TBI Regional Care Coordinator/Education Coordinator Catchment Areas and Contact Information



# Education Materials

- Recovering from Traumatic Brain Injury – *Quick book Series*



# Education Materials

- Understanding TBI – CD with intro from General (Ret) Colin Powell
- Signs and Symptoms of TBI
- Frequently Asked Questions about TBI
- Spanish Language Materials

# TBI Family Caregiver Curriculum

## National Defense Authorization Act of 2007 (NDAA), Section 744

Mandated the establishment of a 15-member panel:

"to develop coordinated, uniform, and consistent training curricula to be used in training family members in the provision of care and assistance to members and former members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injuries."

# Panel Responsibilities

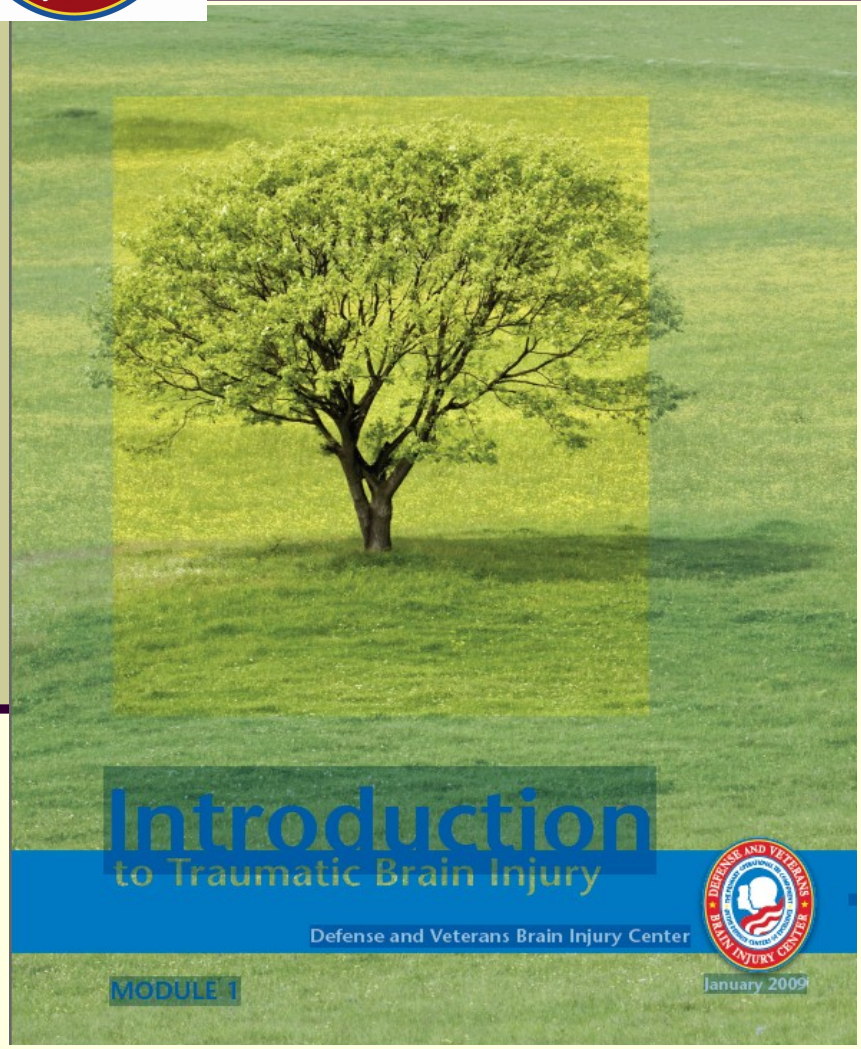
- Review literature and developing an evidence-base for the curriculum
- Develop consistent curriculum for TBI caregiver education
- Recommend mechanisms for the dissemination of the family caregiver curriculum throughout DoD and VA

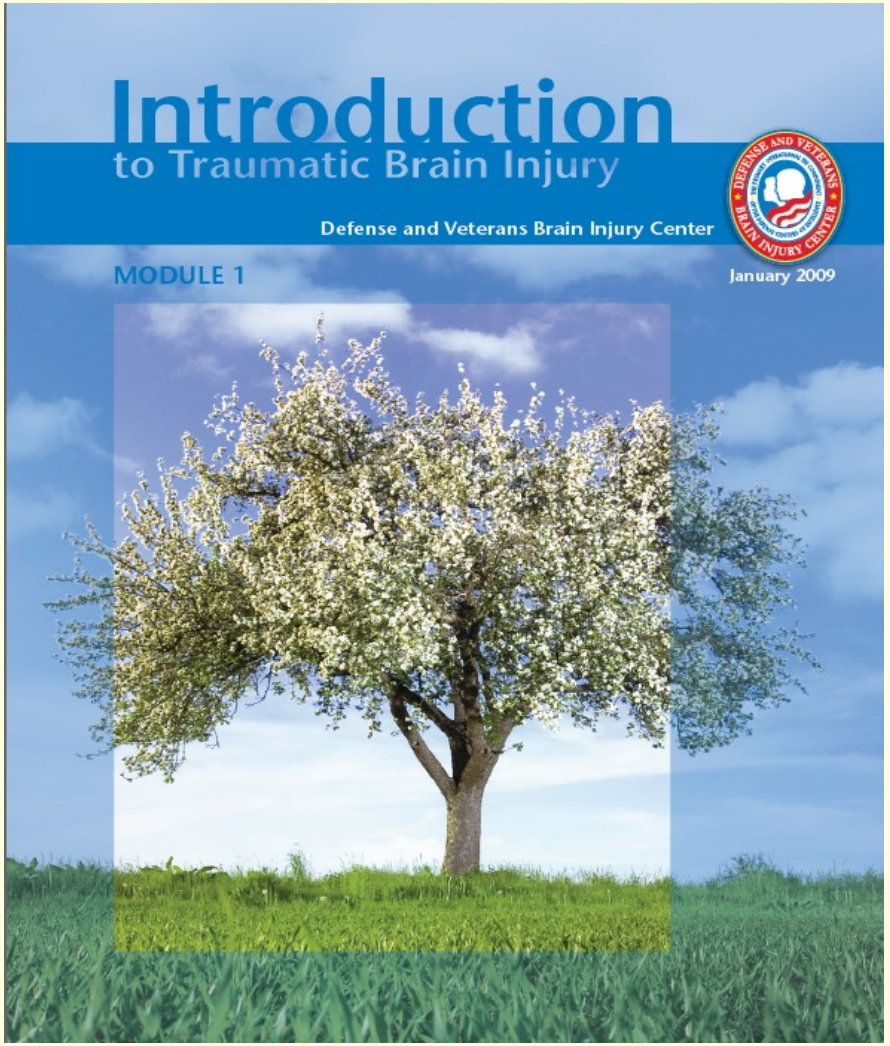
# Family Caregiver Curriculum

- **Four Modules**
  - TBI Basics
  - Physical, Cognitive, Emotional and Behavioral Effects
  - Caregiver Guide
  - Overview of Defense and Veterans Systems of Care

**Print and Multimedia Version**

# Family Caregiver Curriculum Print Version



# Traumatic Brain Injury: The Journey Home

Search:

**Welcome to The Journey Home - the CEMM Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Web Site.** This site provides an informative and sensitive exploration of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), including information for patients, family members, and caregivers. Topics include types and symptoms of brain injury, TBI treatment and recovery, and helpful insights about the potential long-term effects of brain injury. Animation is used to help patients clearly understand the brain, and the results of injuries to different parts of the brain. Survivors and their caregivers share courageous stories about their own experiences, providing down-to-earth facts along with inspiration and hope. Watch Program Introduction Video Now!

## The Brain

The anatomy and physiology of the brain, including an interactive brain to explore

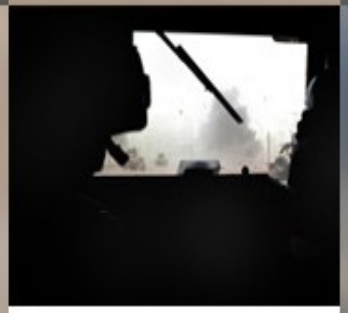
click here to enter

## Mild TBI

The most common form of brain injury, also known as concussion

click here to enter

## Moderate to Severe TBI



Information about treatment, recovery and long term effects for patients with more severe brain injuries and their caregivers

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## Caregiver's Journey

Traumatic brain injury in combat commonly overlaps post traumatic stress disorder

click here to enter

## Personal Journeys

Personal Journeys: Real Life Stories of TBI Survivors and their Families

click here to enter

# Family Caregiver Curriculum

- Timeline

| | |
|---|---|
| Mar. 2009 | Finalize curriculum, graphics |
| April – May 2009 | Multi-site focus groups, |
| June, 2009 | Revise curriculum as needed |
| August, 2009 | DHB review and approval of curriculum |
| September, 2009 | Curriculum is printed<br>Dissemination begins |

# Brainline.org

DVBIC & WETA Collaboration

- Engaging and Comprehensive
- Source of information on TBI
- Focus primarily on community
- 20% military focus
- Initiated August, 2008

# Brainline.org

- Target Audience
  - Persons with Brain Injury
  - Family Members
  - Active Duty Service Members
  - Veterans
  - Social Workers, School Nurses, Football Coaches
  - Anyone with an interest in preventing and treating TBI

# Brainline.org

- Additional Features
  - Webcasts and Video Content
    - Concussion: Understanding mTBI
    - Caregiving and TBI : What You Need to Know
    - TBI and Acute Care
  - Calendar
  - Electronic Newsletter
  - Social Networking Sites
  - Spanish Language Site

# Contact Information

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- Brainline
  - Info@Brainline.org